

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Shirley Middle School
June 8, 2004

Present: Gary Bourassa, Chairperson
Paul Wilson
Bob Prescott
Don Parker

Also Present: Dr. Thomas Scott, Superintendent
Patricia Stern, Business Manager
Sylvia Jordan, Middle School Principal
Suzanne Mahoney, Elementary Principal
Lonnie Ouellette, Early Learning Director
Thomas Walsh, SPED Director
Mike Smith, FinCom
Joe Deguglielmo, DEAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Public Participation:

As there was no public participation the meeting moved forward to discuss old business.

Old Business:

Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of April 27, May 3 and Executive Session of May 25, 2004. Mr. Prescott seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Suzanne Mahoney, elementary principal, distributed revised versions of the LAW School Improvement Plan. She explained that the eleven member school council is comprised of parents and administrators. Many of the council members were present to review their improvement plan. This plan consists of seven school goals, each with a list of activities or methods necessary for achievement. Primary responsibility for accomplishing these goals, the timeline required and their impact on the budget were also included.

Dr. Scott stated that the committee would need to decide if the school improvement plan should be approved. He also noted that the plan would require approximately \$16,000 from the budget and would be dependent upon such funding being available. Mr. Parker motioned to approve the LAW school improvement plan. Mr. Prescott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The committee members reviewed the 2004-2005 school calendar. Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the new calendar. Mr. Prescott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Director of Instruction job description was discussed. Dr. Scott explained that in creating this new job title the Shirley School District would have a SPED Director with a much broader prospective. This person would make SPED decisions in the context of the overall education program. This person would also help lead and direct teachers in the general education program to provide diversity of education in the classroom. The committee expressed concern over the workload such a position would now require. Dr. Scott suggested that some of the district placements could be shifted to the SPED coordinator as well as having the principals more involved with TEAM meetings. Mr. Prescott had questioned at a previous meeting the salary range for this position. Dr. Scott said that the range would be consistent with the current SPED Director salary, thereby having no impact on the budget. Mr. Prescott commented that he would like to see the credential requirements amended, requiring candidate to be certified as a director of SPED. He motioned to approve the position, with the amended credentials. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The meeting moved forward to discuss school accreditation. Mr. Prescott stated that he had recently attended a PTA meeting. He was informed that the PTA does not currently have any funding available to assist in funding the accreditation fees. He also noted that the school committee should consider approaching the PTA in August as they might be able to host a separate fundraiser to support the accreditation funding. Dr. Scott suggested that the district join NAESC now and begin all necessary prep work. The accreditation procedure would formally begin in September 2005. Mr. Prescott motioned to approve the plan. Mr. Bourassa seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Business Affairs:

Mrs. Stern reviewed payables warrants 451 and 453. She also reviewed payroll warrants 347 and 847.

New Business:

Dr. Scott reviewed the Parent Survey results. These results were positive with 80% of the questions receiving the highest rating. The area of most concern to parents was with regard to students showing respect to other students. Respect for students is a part of the District Goals and is something that the schools are continuing to work on.

Dr. Scott informed the committee that members of DEAC would be attending the June 22 meeting. DEAC is attending school committee meetings in Ayer, Harvard and Shirley, as well as Parker School. They are primarily interested in starting a conversation with these communities in an attempt to explore how everyone can benefit from the assets available to Devens. Mr. Deguglielmo stated that DEAC is still looking at different modes of education and looking at the various towns to pool resources.

The committee discussed the ATM presentation. It was determined that the committee should explain the process of taking the original needs-based budget to its current level funded budget. The committee decided that a letter from the entire meeting would be drafted by Mr. Bourassa and placed in *The Volunteer* and *Shirley Oracle*. Mr. Parker

would also hand out the letter to community members in front of the Post Office. The school committee letter and flyer by Melissa Hoffmann explaining the override would also be sent home with the students before the override is approved at the public meeting. It was suggested by a member in the audience to clarify the meaning of out-of-district and how the vote on question 1 affects questions 2 & 3 which are mandated to be paid. It should also be clarified that if any money should be received over the anticipated amounts for Circuit Breaker the town would not be assessed for these funds. Finance Committee member Mike Smith stated that at the ATM a motion should be made to amend the budget to fund the requested amount using the proposition 2 ½ override. All printed material will be available at the library, Town Hall and schools. A budget fact sheet will be sent home with students and available at the ATM for all of those in attendance.

Mr. Parker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by:
Karen Gutheil